

OGDEN CITY, UTAH, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1914.



The cities of Belgium, drenched with blood for centuries, are the recipients of more sympathy on the part of the American public than any other of the countries suffering from the European War. As far back as history reads Belgium has been the battling ground of the races.

Before the dawn of authentic history the legends of that land tell of battling between the tribes of antiquity. Quaternary man, too, probably battled there for the supremacy. There is no doubt but the Celtic peoples coming into Western Europe fought on the plains of Belgium with those who preceded them.

The first battle of the Aisne was fought 2,000 years ago. The Aisne River is a short distance south of the present boundary of Belgium, but it formed the original southern boundary, and it was across the Aisne that Julius Caesar had to cross to subdue the Belgians.

In writing about his battles with them Caesar said: "The bravest of the Gauls are the Belgians." Only after a terrific fight was Caesar able to conquer these fierce people. Caesar's main reason for fighting the Belgians was to get at the Germans. Running north from the Swiss Alps is a low range of mountains and hills extending into the plains of Belgium. These hills are fine places for defending armies to entrench themselves. Only by passing to the north of the hills can an invading army meet the defenders

FOR TWENTY CENTURIES The World's Greatest WAR Arena

Nearly Every Great Commander in the History of the World Has at Some Time in His Career Fought

for His

Country on Belgian Soil



VIKING drawings at upper left, upper right and lower left and right, show Norsemen, who overran Belgium a thousand years ago. At top, is Charlemagne, who expelled them. Center is Kaiser Wilhelm, present invader of Belgium. Below is Julius Caesar, the first invader recorded in history. At left of Charlemagne is William of Orange. At right is Duke of Alva, who was driven out by Orange. At left of Wilhelm's picture, is Duke of Wellington. At right of Wilhelm's picture is Napoleon. Lower right is Blucher, who with Wellington defeated Napoleon at Waterloo. Lower left is Duke of Marlborough, victor at the Battle of Blenheim.

have built up a country of great wealth. They are a manufacturing people and their factories turn out products for sale in all lands. What



on equal terms.

These natural obstructions have made little Belgium with its 11,373 square miles the fighting ground of the ages.

In spite of the frequent invasions Belgium is the most densely populated country in the world. Its population is almost 5,000,000 people. Crowded in such a small space the people naturally cannot make a living from the land. The living is made chiefly in manufacture and trade with other countries.

In the earlier days Belgium was overrun by the migrating Teutonic tribes. The Vandals, Franks and other tribes of German peoples forcing their way into Western Europe fought on the plains of Belgium for a passage. They usually crossed the land. The Vikings descended from Denmark, Norway and Sweden and for several hundred years ravaged the coasts. They crossed Belgium to get at the people further inland. In all that time Belgium was known by various names and owed allegiance to various kings. It has been united with the Netherlands. It has been part of France. The Austrian and Spanish Kings ruled over it. It was part of Caesar's Empire and a part of the Holy Roman Empire. For a time its Princes paid fealty to the Danes, but throughout all its history the Belgian people maintained their individuality in customs and

language. Above all else they have maintained their reputation for bravery and love of freedom. Many of the cities of the land have been sacked repeatedly. Take, for instance, the city of Maestricht. In the 500 years between the year 900 and 1400 it was besieged, taken and plundered six times. In the war with Spain, which lasted fifteen years, it was taken by the Spaniards, the Prince of Orange, Prince Maurice, Frederick Henry and sacked every time. It was besieged four times in the wars between Louis XIV and William III and in the Napoleonic wars. Again it was taken during the revolution of 1830.

SINGLE CITY SACKED FIFTEEN TIMES.

That makes fifteen sieges and captures for Maestricht. The worst siege probably was in 1579, when it was captured after a siege lasting three and a half months. The captors pillaged the city and butchered the inhabitants. Only 400 persons survived of a city of 34,000 population.

Brussels also has had a career of destruction. The destruction caused by the movement of German troops is not nearly as serious as the destruction caused by the movement of other troops.

Brussels was besieged in 1695 by the French. In 1795 it surrendered to the Duke of Marlborough. Forty

years later the French besieged it.

It has been said that no great General in the history of the world, with the exception of Hannibal and Alexander the Great, missed fighting a battle on Belgian soil. Napoleon fought his final battle there. That was the greatest battle ever fought on Belgian soil unless some battles of this present war have exceeded it. The numbers then were small compared with the numbers engaged in the present conflict, but the Battle of Waterloo was of more significance because it ruined Napoleon and forever settled his career as the chief ruler of Europe. Napoleon's army in that battle numbered 122,400 men. Wellington's army numbered 105,900 men. Wellington's army consisted of Englishmen, Hanoverians, Brunswickers, Nassauers, Germans and Dutch. Blucher had 115,897 Prussians. Although outnumbered almost two to one, Napoleon entered the fight with confidence. He attacked Blucher at Ligny and forced him to fall back.

The streets of Ligny were filled with dead and dying. Blucher reformed near Waterloo and Wellington came up to bear the brunt of the conflict. Napoleon's method of fighting was to divide an army and defeat the divisions in detail. Blucher's masterly retreat saved his army from annihilation. Napoleon was unable to follow up his pursuit of Blucher because Wellington was advancing and threatened his flank. He had to fight Wellington first. If he could have defeated Wellington on that memorable day 100 years ago next June 18, he could then have turned his full force on Blucher. Wellington had the advantage of receiving Napoleon's attack. He did not have to win a victory in a hurry. Delay was in his favor because it would give time for Blucher to reform and come up. Napoleon had to win a decisive victory quickly. Hurting his force against Wellington he pushed the fight, but Blucher came to the rescue. The tide turned against Napoleon and he fled to Paris, leaving his dead and wounded on the field to be cared for by the hospitable Belgians.

That Belgium and Holland are

separate countries is due probably to the fact that Spain once forced her rulership over the land. The countries are very closely related and there are no natural boundaries between them.

The Netherlands, of which Belgium was a part, permitted the Spanish to rule over them until Philip II became King of Spain. The people of Antwerp, Amsterdam and other seaports objected to his interference with trade. They were even then a great commercial people. War broke out. Holland, now called the Netherlands, was more successful in resisting the Duke of Alva, Spain's chief General. William of Orange cut the dikes and flooded the Duke of Alva out of the lowlands, but the Spanish were more successful in the highlands. Although the Belgian part of the Netherlands gained its freedom, it took longer. In the meantime the people living under Spanish influence became Catholic in religion, while the Hollanders were for the most part Protestants. In these days Protestants and Catholics can live in harmony together, but 100 years ago this thing was impossible.

BELEGIUM GAINS HER FREEDOM FROM HOLLAND.

Napoleon annexed Belgium to France. It remained a part of France until Napoleon's downfall, when the Kings of Europe united it with Holland. The Belgians were restive under Dutch rule. Differ-

ences in religion were the chief cause of dissension. In 1830, when Europe suffered from rebellion after rebellion, the Belgians also demanded independence.

Placards with red letters were secretly posted one night on the street corners of Brussels defining the following programme: "Monday, fireworks; Tuesday, illuminations; Wednesday, revolution." The revolution came to pass as scheduled. The biggest fight of that war was in Brussels itself. The Belgians were led by a wooden-legged General from Liege. His name is Charlier. He is one of the national heroes of Belgium. Charlier had the women make dummies of straw. These dummies were shoved above the breastworks and the Dutch would open fire. The dummies would fall behind the breastworks to be shoved up again. The Dutch wasted their ammunition and at the decisive time the Belgians rushed to the attack.

Four days the the Belgians and Dutch fought in the streets. The streets were filled with the dead and wounded before the Dutch were finally driven out. Belgium named her own King, and since that time has been exceedingly jealous of her independence. Since gaining her independence Belgium has been at peace with the world, except with a few small uprisings, until the present war.

By industry and skill the Belgians

farming is done is done intensively. The farmers have only a few acres and these acres are made to yield abundantly. Fertilization is carried on with the greatest care. Belgium owns the most fertile lands in Africa. The Congo State pays tribute to Belgium.

Under the reign of Leopold the Congo was cruelly governed. It was exploited for Leopold's private gain. The stories of his cruelties in the Congo astounded the world. Since his death the Congo has been governed with much more consideration.

The greatest horrors of this present war in Belgium are due more to the shut down of the factories than the horrors of war itself. While many cities have been damaged, and while many cities have been forced to pay tribute to the Germans, yet lack of employment is at the bottom of the greatest distress.

With the factories and ship yards idle the commerce Belgium had with the world is at a standstill. Because their agricultural lands are small and the German soldiers have eaten their food, the people are starving. The atrocities against the Belgians by German soldiers have been exaggerated, but the suffering because of lack of employment has not been exaggerated one bit.

Belgian refugees have thronged Holland, France and England. Yet there are more left in Belgium who cannot get away.